

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11 and 13-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 8, 13 and 16 are amended and claim 12 is canceled. No new matter is added. In view of at least the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-7 and 17-20 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-15.

Independent claims 8 and 16 are amended above to include the features of allowable claim 12. Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments are made to cancel claims and/or comply with a requirement of form set forth in a previous Office Action because claim 12 is canceled, the features of claim 12 are written into claims 8 and 16, and claim 13 is amended only to correct dependency; and because the amendments present rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Claims 8, 9, 11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,939,218 (Mizuno). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As amended, independent claims 8 and 16 include the features of allowable claim 12. Thus, claims 8 and 16 are patentable over the applied references.

Claims 9 and 11 depend from claim 8 and are therefore also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons enumerated above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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